

REMARKS

This is in response to the final official action dated May 20, 2003. Reconsideration in view of the following is respectfully requested. Further, it is respectfully requested that the amendment be entered and considered at this time. The amendment places the case in condition for allowance by directly addressing the examiner's point of objection. Therefore, no further search is required.

Claim 1 is amended to use the term "consisting of" in place of "consisting essentially of". Allowable claim 9 is amended to independent form.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC 102, and claims 6, 7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103, in view of McGrew. McGrew teaches a process whereby a resin is coated onto the relief surface of a master. The resin is cured "between the master and a smooth material, such as polyester film". The polyester film may then be removed. This is followed by a 'fourth step', namely coating with a substance to increase reflectivity. See column 3, line 63 – column 4, line 62)

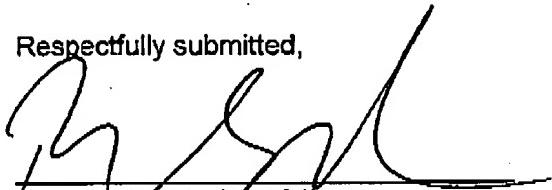
Claim 1 sets forth a process, consisting of certain steps to be performed in order. These steps include forming a sheet comprised of one or more layers, directly on the embossed support foil, curing the layers, and removing the sheet from the foil. There is no intermediate step of supplying a polyester film over the sheet prior to curing, as in McGrew. Therefore, McGrew does not teach a process consisting essentially of the steps set out in applicant's claim 1, as it teaches additional steps not required by applicant. Accordingly, it can not anticipate claims 1-3.

Likewise, claims 1-3, 6, 7 and 10 are not obvious over McGrew. McGrew teaches that a polyester film on top of the sheet is required prior to curing. The sheet is either retained as a support, or removed in an additional step. Applicants have surprisingly found that the process for producing holograms can be greatly simplified, by avoiding these unnecessary extra steps.

The amendment to 'consisting of' means that applicant's claims exclude these unnecessary steps of McGrew. As the skilled person would presume from McGr w that these were essential for gaining a good product, it can not be obvious that a good product can be obtained without these additional steps, which add cost, complexity and time to the process. Therefore, all of the claims are allowable over McGrew.

Wherefore, allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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